



Pol 15 Libya
 Department of State
 547 TELEGRAM
 XI Pet 6 Libya

CONFIDENTIAL 295

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00534 261140Z

46
 ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EB-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 INR-09
 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 PM-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-01
 CIEP-01 TRSF-00 SIL-01 LAR-01 PRS-01 RSR-01 RSC-01
 /054 W

R 261016Z APR 73
 FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
 TO SFCSTATE WASHDC 9980

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 0534

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
 TAGS: ENRG ELAR PINI LY
 SURJ: POPULAR COMMITTEES AND THE OIL COMPANIES

REF: TRIPOLI 0515, 0502

1. ECON OFFICER CHECKED WITH OXY AND ESSO APRIL 25
 RE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR POPULAR COMMITTEES.

2. OXY PRESIDENT REPEY REVIEWED PROCESS OF ESTABLISH-
 ING POPULAR COMMITTEE IN COMPANY, AS REPORTED REFTFLS,
 NOTING THAT TEN-MAN POPULAR COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ELECTED
 APRIL 22. OXY PLEASED WITH RESULTS. FOUR FORMER ASU
 COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED TO NEW COMMITTEE, WHICH
 COMPOSED MAINLY OF SOLID CITIZENS. OXY COMMITTEE HAS
 NOT YET RECEIVED RCC APPROVAL, AND SOME MEMBERS OF
 COMMITTEE FEAR IT MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING BECAUSE
 COMMITTEE HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARD HIGHER MANAGEMENT
 WITH FEW ORDINARY WORKERS REPRESENTED. COMMITTEE HAS
 MADE NO DEMANDS ON OXY MANAGEMENT.

3. ESSO MARSA BREGA REPORTED TO ESSO HEADQUARTERS

037045
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY g DATE 4/1/73

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE 4/1/73

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 3

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00534 261140Z

TRIPOLI APRIL 25 THAT LOCAL ASU HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE SAYING THAT NO POPULAR COMMITTEES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED "AT OIL INSTALLATIONS OR TERMINALS." OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES IN THE FIELD ARE TO JOIN LOCAL GEOGRAPHICALLY-BASED UNITS OF POPULAR COMMITTEES. GOVERNOR OF AGEDABIA CONFIRMED FOREGOING. OTHER COMPANIES HAVE NOT RECEIVED SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THEIR OIL FIELD AND TERMINAL WORKERS. ESSO PRESIDENT COX SAID FORMER ESSO ASU UNIT AT TRIPOLI HEADQUARTERS HAD EFFORTLESSLY CONVERTED ITSELF INTO POPULAR COMMITTEE. COMPANY HAS HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH ASU COMMITTEE IN PAST, LARGELY THROUGH ADROIT UFA OF SENIOR LIBYAN, MUHAMMAD SASSI, AS MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO LABOR. SASSI WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN FORMER CAPACITY WITH RESPECT TO POPULAR COMMITTEE, WHICH TO DATE HAVE MADE NO DEMANDS ON COMPANY.

4. COX'S COMMENTS INTENDED TO CONFIRM OUR GROWING IMPRESSION RCC HAS AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE TOWARD ORGANIZATION OF POPULAR COMMITTEES IN PRIVATE SECTOR IN GENERAL AND OIL COMPANIES IN PARTICULAR. WE HAVE FAIRLY RELIABLE REPORTS THAT IN AT LEAST TWO CASES OF SMALL PRIVATE SECTOR FIRMS, POPULAR COMMITTEES WERE DISSOLVED BY RCC AFTER MEMBERS LOCKED OUT OWNERS. WE UNDERSTAND POPULAR COMMITTEES ARE DISCOURAGED IN PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES BUT TOLERATED IN OIL COMPANIES AS EXCEPTION BECAUSE LATTER EMPLOY LARGE NUMBERS OF LIBYANS AND THEIR TRIPOLI HEADQUARTERS FORM NATURAL UNITS. COX ALSO POINTS TO EMPHASIS ON "WORK ETHIC" IN SOME LARGE COMMENTS ON POPULAR COMMITTEES AND HOPES THIS ELEMENT WILL REDUCE POSSIBILITY THAT COMMITTEES WILL DISRUPT COMPANY OPERATIONS. JOSIF

CONFIDENTIAL